

## UNITED STATES REMARKS

OCTOBER 9-10, 2024 UNSCR 1540 (2004) COMMITTEE MEETING OF STATES  
AS CALLED FOR BY UNSCR 2663 (2021)

The United States would like to take this opportunity on the occasion of UNSCR 1540's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to commend the 1540 Committee Chair, Ecuador's Ambassador de la Gasca, for the exceptional efforts he has made during his tenure to help the Committee pursue its monitoring and coordination mandates.

As the Chair just mentioned, there are a number of efforts underway to implement the latest UNSCR 1540 successor resolution, UNSCR 2663. Progress is slow but is nevertheless being made on the development of technical guides, on assessing implementation within various areas of the resolution such as means of delivery, and of course on holding meetings like this one.

I would like to turn today to another hopeful trend we are seeing behind the scenes. I am talking about the progress being made and still to be made on the standardization of internal Committee processes and procedures.

The current standard bearer for establishing effective internal Committee procedures is something called the draft Assistance Procedures document. This document would for the first time thoroughly delineate the role of all stakeholders in the assistance coordination process, from requesting states and assistance providers to the Committee's Group of Experts and the U.N. Office of Disarmament Affairs.

The clarification of the Committee's assistance coordination roles was a top priority for many of you who spoke during the 2021 Opens Session of the Comprehensive Review. The Committee is not yet done with this document, but we wanted to be sure everyone here today who attended the 2021 meeting knew that their voices were heard.

Yet another draft document establishes criteria for the 1540 Committee's engagement with the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) as directed by UNSCR 1540 and subsequent resolutions. Here again, all potential interactions for the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts and others within their respective mandates are anticipated and defined.

There is an additional priority area highlighted by speakers at the 2021 Open Session where the Committee still struggles to be responsive to its stakeholders and is ripe for attention: the Committee's management of

invitations for Committee participation in 1540-related regional and sub-regional activities.

A small number of these invitations are turned down due to concerns about the appropriate scope of proposed activities, the appropriate role of Group of Experts representatives who might participate in these activities, the suitability of IO, IRO or civil society participants to the objectives of the activity, or the conformity of events themselves to 1540's mandate.

In this vein, it is perhaps useful for non-Committee members to know that increasingly, for those invitations that raise concerns, it is sometimes not just proposed event content but the time available for deliberations over content that poses a challenge for the Committee.

It is therefore important in the short term to once again underscore that requests for Committee participation in proposed activities be made early enough for internal deliberations to take place -- at least one month but ideally two months in advance.

Over the longer term, United States will be suggesting next year -- upon completion of and Committee consensus on the Assistance Procedures document -- that the next 1540 Committee Chair direct the Experts to draft a

procedures document that establishes criteria for Committee participation in events to which it is invited.

Establishing procedures for the consideration of Committee invitations will not eliminate potential internal disagreements as to the merits of Committee participation. However, the application of standard criteria regarding Committee participation when the scope of a given event has raised concerns should promote a more consistently structured and timely internal dialogue about participation than is currently the case.

If we are successful with our initiative to standardize considerations surrounding Committee participation in events to which it is invited, the United States will urge the Committee to make the proposed criteria document available on the 1540 website so that front-end requests, much like standardized procedures for States' assistance requests to the Committee, conform as closely as possible to consensus criteria for participation.

In closing, the United States would join the Chair and other Committee Members in encouraging all of you to continue engaging the Committee not only with regards to event invitations but also especially with regards to voluntary reporting on implementation progress. The more that states report, the better the Committee becomes at offering or identifying support

to interested states.

Thank you all for your attendance of this week's 1540-related meetings including related side events. I hope that we will be able to do this again next year. And thank you for indulging me in this update on Committee efforts to streamline its decision-making process so as to more constructively interact with all 1540 stakeholders towards the goal of achieving universal UNSCR 1540 implementation.